

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /138 W

-----017518 141911Z /46

P 141837Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0485

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07775

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UNSC, UR

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA//APPROACH IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 7475

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1. IN LATE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 12, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
FORD HANDED OVER TO FIRST DEPUTY FONMIN KORNIYENKO CONTACT
GROUP PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA AND READ TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE
(REFTEL) TO HIM. CANADIANS HAVE INFORMED US THAT DOCUMENT
WAS ACCEPTED COLDLY AND WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS
WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH CONTACT GROUP INITIATIVE.

2. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF VERBAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN FORD AND KORNIYENKO IS TAKEN VIRTUALLY VERBATIM FROM CANADIAN REPORTING CABLE: FORD EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT WHICH OFFERED REAL HOPE FOR PEACE IN NAMIBIA. KORNIYENKO RESPONDED THAT SOVIETS ASSUMED PROPOSAL FROM FIVE WOULD BE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AND AS SUCH IT WOULD BE TREATED SERIOUSLY IN MOSCOW. HOWEVER, USSR WAS STILL WORRIED ABOUT ATTITUDE OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO PROPOSAL. FORD REPLIED THAT FIVE ARE HOPEFUL SAG WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO PROPOSAL. KORNIYENKO THEN ASKED WHAT SWAPO THOUGHT OF PROPOSAL. FORD ANSWERED THAT FIVE HAD RECEIVED NO REACTION FROM SWAPO BUT IN THAT REGARD HE BELIEVED THE USSR COULD BE HELPFUL.

3. KORNIYENKO NOTED THAT FEB. PLAN WOULD NOT HAVE WORKED AS USSR COULD NOT SUPPORT PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW SAG FORCES TO REMAIN ON NORTHERN BORDER. FORD SAID THAT QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION AND CONTROL OF FORCES WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND HAD BEEN CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN PROPOSAL. FORD ADDED THAT WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF UN MILITARY FORCE AND REDUCTION OF SAG FORCES TO 1500 MEN, SOUTH AFRICAN INFLUENCE ON FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

4. AT END OF CONVERSATION FORD SAID THAT HE ASSUMED HE COULD REPORT THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY SERIOUSLY THE PROPOSALS. KORNIYENKO REPLIED RATHER GLUMLY
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THAT ANY DOCUMENT OF THIS TYPE WOULD BE STUDIED SERIOUSLY BUT THAT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD AS A POSITIVE REACTION. FORD REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY IF INITIATIVE DID NOT SUCCEED AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEM. TOON

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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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